List of Claims

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) A method of making an axial piston pump barrel, comprising the steps of:

positioning a central bore core in a mold;

positioning a ring shaped core in the mold to encircle the central bore core;

pouring metal around the ring shaped core and the central bore core to produce a casting in which a central bore defined by the central bore core is fluidly isolated from a cavity defined by the ring shaped core; and

removing the ring shaped core from the casting.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 including a step of supporting said ring shaped core in a mold atop a plurality of pillars.

14. (currently amended)~~The method of claim 13 including a step of~~A method of making an axial piston pump barrel, comprising the steps of:

positioning a central bore core in a mold;

positioning a ring shaped core in the mold to encircle the central bore core;

pouring metal around the ring shaped core and the central bore core to produce a casting in which a central bore defined by the central bore core is fluidly isolated from a cavity defined by the ring shaped core;

removing the ring shaped core from the casting;

supporting said ring shaped core in a mold atop a plurality; and

forming said ring shaped core to include a ring portion and a plurality of pillars extending away from said ring portion parallel to one another.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 including a step of mating said plurality of pillars to counterpart pillar bores in a base core.

16. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein said removing step includes a step of breaking said ring shaped core into smaller pieces.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 including a step of machining a plurality of parallelly oriented openings in the casting.

18. (original) The method of claim 12 including a step of attaching a plurality of check valves to the casting.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 including a step machining a conical valve seat for each of said plurality of check valves.

20. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 19~~ A method of making an axial piston pump barrel, comprising the steps of:

positioning a central bore core in a mold;

positioning a ring shaped core in the mold to encircle the central bore core;

pouring metal around the ring shaped core and the central bore core to produce a casting in which a central bore defined by the central bore core is fluidly isolated from a cavity defined by the ring shaped core;

removing the ring shaped core from the casting attaching a plurality of check valves to the casting;

machining a conical valve seat for each of said plurality of check valves; and

wherein said attaching step includes a step of positioning each of said check valves in contact with one of said conical valves seats.